



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Natalie Burfoot Billing, Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Paulann H. Sheets, Thomas J. Skrmetti, and Elissa T. Wright.

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Billing, Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Skrmetti
Members Absent: Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Wright

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.

3. Calendar and Communications

Councilor Bartinik received an inquiry about the sewer bond and why the Town doesn't just pay cash. Town Manager Oefinger explained that the cost of the sewer project is a large sum to pay in cash, especially considering interest rates are so low. Since the life of the project is so long, it is a perfectly acceptable practice to bond for the cost.

4. Approval of Minutes

2005-0284 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole of October 11, 2005 and October 18, 2005 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Billing, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

2003-0109 Poquonnock Bridge Fire District - Consolidation Resolution

Recommended for a Resolution

Councilor Billing noted that the Council received a copy of the Consolidation Committee's report. She provided a brief background on the Consolidation Committee and its findings, while referencing the report. The Town Manager reviewed the intent of the study of the Town's fire protection system which the Consolidation Committee has recommended. The next step would be for the Council to establish a new referral to specifically deal with outsourcing this study.

A motion was made by Councilor Skrmetti, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to recommend a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to take the necessary steps to solicit bids on a study of the Town's fire protection system, not to exceed available funding of \$35,000.

Councilor Bartinik suggested that the Council identify parameters for the study. Town Manager

Oefinger clarified that the intent of the motion is to authorize him to prepare a scope of study and RFQ for the next Council to review.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Billing, Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Skrmetti
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Bartinik, Jr.

2004-0328 Bus Ordinance - Update

Discussed

Councilor Skrmetti received an e-mail from Daphne Vayos regarding the Traffic Authority's report. She had several questions which Councilor Skrmetti read. Town Manager Oefinger explained that the members of the Traffic Authority are not traffic engineers, but the services of the Town Engineer were used to prepare the report. Town Manager Oefinger reviewed the Traffic Authority's report and the issues that were considered. The Traffic Authority does not feel there is a public safety issue with destination oriented buses. Mr. Oefinger noted that the Traffic Authority considered the comments and information provided by Mr. Ditman of Barkan and Mess Associates. The Traffic Authority does feel that sightseeing buses in Noank should not be allowed and the existing ordinance prohibits them. Mr. Oefinger reviewed some of the road survey findings.

The consensus of the Commission was to postpone consideration of this item until after the election.

2005-0283 2006 Rates for Shennecossett Golf Course

Discussed

Director of Parks and Recreation John Silsby introduced staff and members of the Golf Course Advisory Board that was formed in June. He requested that the Town Council approve the rates recommended by the Golf Course Advisory Board and Parks and Recreation Commission. Mr. Silsby reviewed the request. Councilor Bond asked about last year's goal to increase the number of rounds to 2,400. Mr. Silsby noted that goal has not been met and it is based on a calendar year. He estimated year-to-date golf rounds at around 1,000.

A motion was made by Councilor Bartinik, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously.

2005-0282 Grant for Holiday DUI Enforcement

A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Skrmetti, seconded by Councilor Bartinik, to adjourn at 7:32 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.